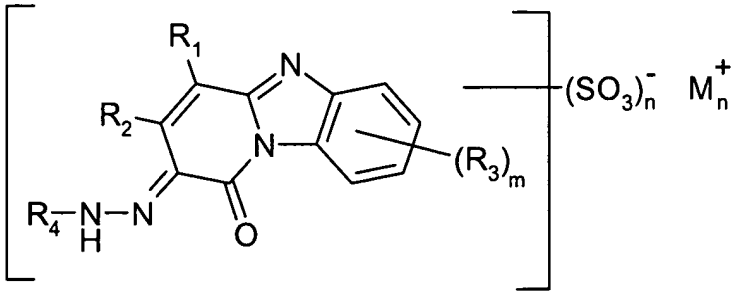
In the Claims:

1. (original): An azo dye of formula



(1)

wherein

R_1 is -CN, -$COOR_5$, -$CONR_6R_7$ or a heterocyclic ring, R_2 is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, -CF_3, -$COOR_5$, -$CONR_6R_7$ or -COR_5, R_3 is hydrogen, -SO_3M, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, -NO_2 or halogen, R_4 is substituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl or an aryl-N=N-aryl radical, wherein one or both of the aryl radicals in aryl-N=N-aryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, or a radical heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl, wherein one or both of the heteroaryl radicals in heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, R_5 is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R_6 is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, M^+ is a cation, n is a number 1, 2 or 3 and m is a number 1, 2 or 3.

2. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is -CN or -$CONH_2$.

3. (currently amended): An azo dye according to either claim 1, ~~or claim 2,~~ wherein R_2 is methyl, isopropyl, -CF_3, phenyl or p-methoxyphenyl.

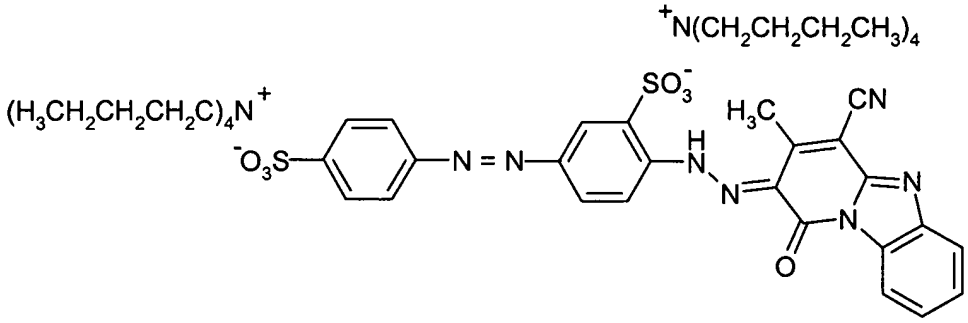
4. (currently amended): An azo dye according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1, ~~to 3,~~ wherein R_3 is hydrogen, chlorine or -SO_3M.

5. (currently amended): An azo dye according to ~~any one of~~ claim [[s]] 1, ~~to 4,~~ wherein R_4 is phenyl substituted by methyl and/or by methoxy and/or by -NO_2 and/or by -CF_3 and/or one or more times by -SO_3M, or is phenyl-N=N-phenyl, wherein one of the phenyl radicals or both phenyl radicals independently of one another is/are unsubstituted or substituted as indicated above.

6. (currently amended): An azo dye according to any one of claims 1~~, to 3,~~ wherein R_4 is naphthyl substituted one or more times by $-SO_3M$.

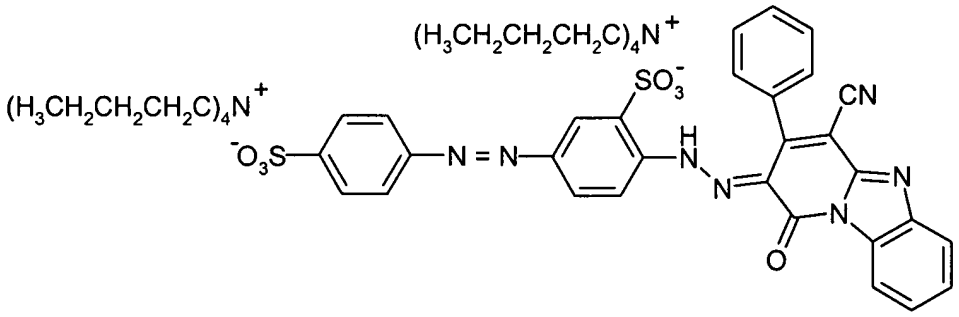
7. (currently amended): An azo dye according to any one of claims 1~~, to 6,~~ wherein the cation M^+ is Primene 81, $N^+[(CH_2)_3CH_3]_4$, $N^+(C_{16}H_{33})(CH_3)_3$ or $N^+(C_{10}H_{21})_2(CH_3)_2$.

8. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



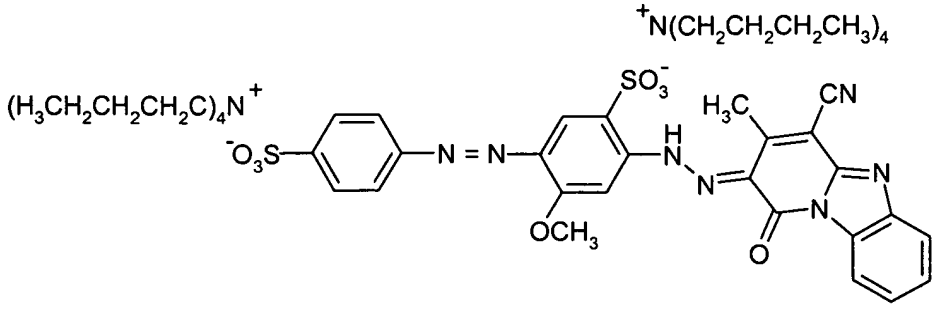
(10).

9. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



(11).

10. (original): An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula

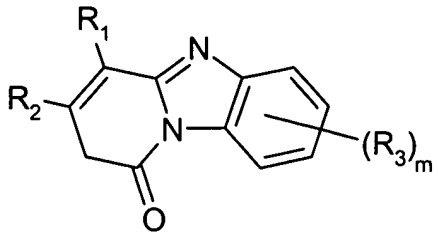


(12).

11. (original): A process for the preparation of an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1, in which a compound of formula

R_4-NH_2 (50)

is diazotised and coupled to a coupling component of formula



(51),

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and m are as defined for formula (1), the diazo component and/or the coupling component containing at least one sulfo group, which is subsequently neutralised with a suitable base containing the cation M^+.

12. (original): A process for the production of coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles, in which one or more azo dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1 is/are incorporated into those materials.

13 (cancelled)

14. (original): The coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles according to claim 12.

15. (original): An aqueous wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

16. (original): A process for colouring wood, in which an aqueous wood stain according to claim 15 is used.

17. (cancelled):

18. (original): Wood coloured according to claim 16.

19. (original): A purely solvent-containing wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

20. (original): A process for colouring wood, in which a purely solvent-containing wood stain according to claim 19 is used.

21. (cancelled)

22. (original): Wood coloured according to claim 20.

23. (currently amended): A process for dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre material, ~~especially textile material,~~ in which one or more azo dyes according to claim 1 is/are applied to the mentioned material or incorporated therein.

24. (currently amended): A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic material~~,~~ ~~especially~~ is textile material, ~~consists of polyester fibres.~~

25. (original): Material dyed or printed according to claim 23.

26. (new): A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic material consists of polyester fibres.